Commonwealth Council on Childhood Success

Clark Mercer, Chief of Staff
Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Executive Order

- Executive Order 22 established the Council (CCCS) and directs them, in coordination with the Children's Cabinet, to serve as a central coordinating entity to identify opportunities and develop recommendations for improvement including, but not limited to:

  1) funding for preschool;
  2) kindergarten readiness;
  3) strategies to close the achievement gap in early elementary years;
  4) the quality and accountability of child care programs and providers; and
  5) coordination of services for at-risk families

- Focus on earliest years and building strong foundations from birth to age 8

Children's Cabinet Membership

- Secretary of Education Anne Holton and Secretary of Health and Human Resources Bill Hazel co-chair the Children's Cabinet.

- Lt. Governor Ralph Northam, Secretary of Public Safety Brian Moran, Secretary of Commerce and Trade Maurice Jones and the First Lady of Virginia Dorothy McAuliffe serve as members of the Children's Cabinet.

Commonwealth Council Membership

- Chaired by Lt. Governor Northam

- Public council, composed of 28 stakeholders that include agency commissioners, legislators, service providers , business leaders, stakeholder groups, universities, and community colleges. Workgroups include broader group of stakeholders.

Process

- **Formed 3 Workgroups**
  - School Readiness
    - Virginia Preschool Initiative
    - Access and Quality of Child Care and Preschool
    - Early Elementary Years
  - Health and Well-being
  - Data and Governance

- **Produced report in June for Lt. Gov; Workgroups identified 41 recommendations**
  - Narrowed down to 3 priority recommendations and 10 priority strategies

- **Will continue for 15-16 through extension of Executive Order**

Top 3 Priority Recommendations

- **#1- Modernize the Virginia Preschool Initiative funding and formula, promote mixed-delivery and ensure that children most in need can benefit.**
  - Actively promote mixed delivery, restore capacity at VDOE to provide oversight and TA
  - Fully fund VPI to serve all at-risk children, rather than current practice of calculating non-participation
  - Tie per pupil funding to rebenchmarking; has not increased since 2008
  - Establish flexible and research-based eligibility criteria
  - ** Jt. Subcommittee on VPI Reform

Top 3 Priority Recommendations

- **#2- Better coordinate governance of early childhood programs in order to improve service delivery**
  - Conduct a review & develop recommendations regarding governance and organization of programs serving 0-8 in HHR & Ed
  - Cost-benefit analysis of a realignment of children's programs
  - Permanently formalize CCCS to include representation of relevant stakeholders

Top 3 Priority Recommendations

- **#3- Ensure the well-being of our youngest and most vulnerable children and identify timely interventions**
  - Expand the state's investment in home visiting to meet at least 25% of the need. The VA Home Visiting Consortium should advise on the communities that would benefit.
  - DBHDS and Part C Early Intervention should develop and promote a standardized policy to follow-up with infants who spent time in NICU

Access to and Quality of Child Care and Preschool

Emily Griffey

Sr. Policy Analyst, Voices for Virginia's Children

Membership

- Selena Mayo, chair- TAP Head Start
- Bill Ermatinger- Huntington Ingalls
- Sen. Frank Ruff
- Cheryl Thompson-Stacy- Lord Fairfax CC
- Phyllis Mondak- VDOE
- Barbara Newlin- VDSS
- Toni Cacace-Beshears- VAECE
- Josie Webster- VCPE
- Sharon Veatch- Child Care Aware of VA
- Alex London-Gross- VA YMCA's
- Karen Lange- Regional Military Child Care Liaison
- Dr. Teresa Harris- JMU
- September Jones- Knowledge Universe
- Emily Griffey- Voices for VA's Children

Background/Context

- **CCCS workgroup context**
  - Cost, Access and Fragmentation
  - Major Changes in Policy Landscape
  - Defining Quality and Access

- **Concurrent discussions context**
  - VDSS stakeholder groups providing input on CCDF plan
  - NAS "Transforming the Workforce" report ➜ VECF leading discussions
  - Jt. Subcommittee on Preschool ➜ cross-sector PD

Improving the Floor for Quality

1. **Reduce the threshold for licensure of Family Day Homes to 3 or more children**

   - Builds on policy changes adopted last year that will be implemented 6/1/16

2. **Support strengthened penalties for violations of the licensure threshold**

   - VDSS workgroup proposing recommendations & legislation

3. **Any provider that participates in the Child Care Assistance program shall obtain an license.**

4. **Revise the application process for programs exempt from licensure to include verification of health ad safety standards**

Moving More Providers towards Systems of Quality

5. Recognizing that VA QRIS is one of the systems of state recognized quality, alongside state recognized accreditation, Virginia should expand opportunities for providers to access QRIS ratings and supports to recognize and improve quality.

- VA Quality (QRIS 2.0) rolling out by VDSS & VECF
- Continue plans for expedited entry and cross-walk of program standards such as NAEYC & Head Start
- Explore auto entry to QRIS

Coordination and Sustainable Funding

#6 Create comprehensive and cross-sector technical assistance

#7 Conduct a public awareness campaign to help parents access and understand quality

#8 Form subgroups to support VDSS work on revising the state CCDF plan-

- **1**. child care needs assessment
- **2**. statewide child care disaster plan

#9 Create a comprehensive, statewide early childhood professional development system

#10 Adapt data systems to measure impact of investments in professional development

#11 Increase financial resources in the early childhood system

Next Steps- Pathways to Progress

- **CCDF state plan/regulation**
  - Needs assessment
  - Requirements for licensure/Exemptions process

- **Legislation**
  - Penalties for non-compliance
  - Fingerprint background check for all providers
  - Reduced threshold

- **Budget**
  - Expand reach of QRIS
  - Professional development system/focus on workforce